

ADVANCE RETURN OF DEPENDENTS/FAMILY MEMBERS (AROD)

SUBJECT: Advance Return of Dependents/Family Members (AROD) for Personal Situations

1. PURPOSE: To provide information regarding the procedures on processing requests for AROD due to personal situations.

2. REFERENCES:

- a. Para 5-9, AR 55-46, Travel Overseas
- b. USAREUR Supplement 1 to AR 55-46, Travel Overseas
- c. Para U5240, Part C, Chapter 5, Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR), Volume 1 - Uniformed Service Members

3. CRITERIA:

- a. Family member(s) may be advance returned to CONUS for extreme personal situations that have developed after arrival in USAREUR.
- b. For AROD to be approved, it must be determined that the use of local resources on or off-post (e.g. Chaplain, Army Community Service (ACS), Medical Treatment Facilities (MTF), Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) Office) cannot resolve the extreme personal situations.
- c. Advance return of family members will not be used in lieu of a family care plan during soldier's deployment or extended temporary duty (TDY).
- d. Because of the potential for excess cost during subsequent Permanent Change of Station (PCS), advance return must be considered as a last resort.
- e. AROD cannot be approved if soldier is in receipt of PCS orders.

4. APPLICATION:

a. Request will be initiated by the soldier on DA Form 4187 (Personnel Action) through their servicing S1 and forwarded to their respective Base Support Battalion (BSB) S1.

b. Enclosures to the DA Form 4187 will include recommendation(s) from one or more of the following agencies:

- chaplain and/or religious counselor
- mental health agency, MTF
- financial-management counselor, ACS
- family counseling service, ACS
- legal advisor, SJA
- medical and/or educational specialist

5. APPROVAL AUTHORITY: The BSB Commander is the approving authority for advance return of family members. This authority cannot be further delegated.

6. DISCUSSION:

- a. When advance return is authorized, family member(s) may move at Government expense to a

designated location in CONUS, or if the family member is a foreign national, to a place in the country of the family member's origin. Travel of family member must begin prior to PCS orders being issued to soldier; otherwise, AROD cannot be authorized.

b. Soldiers who receive advance return orders must process through the local official travel office for family member(s) movement. Soldiers who return family members to CONUS at personal expense before advance return orders are issued will not be reimbursed for travel. After-the-fact requests for advance return must meet the requirements of the JFTR. The BSB commander is also the approving authority for after-the-fact requests.

c. Family members who were advance returned are no longer entitled to dependent student travel to the sponsor's overseas location during the current tour.

d. Soldiers who return family members to overseas location at personal expense after those family members were advance returned to CONUS must request command sponsorship. Command sponsorship requests and recommendation from the soldier's chain of command will be forwarded to the BSB commander for consideration. If approved, soldiers will be required to serve 24 months after command sponsorship is approved; this requirement will not be waived.

e. Soldiers granted advance return of family members are authorized to move their family members and household goods from the designated advance return location to the soldier's new permanent duty station (PDS) once the soldier leaves USAREUR.